New HSD policy settles suit
District also to pay damages for wrongful firing
The Homedale School District will pay hundreds of thousands of dollars and establish new policy to settle a lawsuit brought by a former employee.

Questions remain for GV officials
Mayoral applications still being accepted
The Grand View City Council dealt with mayoral succession and the city clerk’s role in the government last week. Acting mayor John Morrison, the council president, ran last Wednesday’s meeting as his council colleagues accepted former Mayor Franklin Hart’s resignation and discussed the next step. Less than two weeks after Hart’s resignation, the council had received letters from three citizens who expressed interest in being the city’s new chief executive.

Changes in store on Johnstone Road
Speed limit lowered; comment sought on proposed stop signs
Motorists now will have to drive 35 mph in front of Homedale Middle School all day, every day.

Homedale Highway District commissioners have agreed to permanently reduce the Johnstone Road speed limit to 35 mph on the stretch between Idaho highway 19 and Figueroa Lane.

Previously, the 35 mph limit was in force only during school hours.

After a resident’s request, highway district commissioners have proposed making a four-way stop at the Graveyard Point Road-Johnstone Road intersection. Currently, traffic is stopped on Johnstone Road with stop signs to the north and south.

Director of Highways Stewart Constantine said Steve Linder and a handful of other residents attended last week’s meeting to make the request in light of changes in store for the road.

Homedale grads head for La Raza conference
Two served on FHILA state council this year

Homedale will be a strong part of a contingent of Idaho students attending the National Council of La Raza Leadership Conference.

Jason Buenrostro, Maya Correa and Beatrice Santiago, all of whom graduated from Homedale High School in May, will leave for the conference in Orlando, Fla., on Friday. They are the first HHS students to attend the national gathering.

The three students were members of Homedale’s Future Hispanic Leaders of America chapter, and Correa served as the state council president during her senior year. Buenrostro was the 2016-17 state secretary.

Correa, who was an HHS honor graduate in the spring, said she and her classmates were selected after a grueling application process and because of their dedicated work with FHILA.

“Because of FHILA and CCI (The Community Council of Idaho), we have been given the opportunity to attend this year’s conference,” Correa said.

“We have all gotten so much support from many local people, and it’s honestly just an awesome achievement.”

The CCI pays for five Idaho students to make the trip to the national convention. The Homedale trio will make the trip with Caldwell High senior-to-be Eric Ramirez and Columbia-Nampa graduate Jessica Escobedo.

“We would like to thank the Homedale Community Council of Idaho (FCR and CCI), State Council of America chapter, and Correa served as the state council president during her senior year. Buenrostro was the 2016-17 state secretary.

Three of the five Idaho teenagers attending the La Raza national conference are Homedale graduates, including, from left, Maya Correa, Jason Buenrostro and Beatrice Santiago. Submitted photo
Off-duty OCSO personnel to assist at music festival again

Owyhee County Sheriff’s Office deputies will assist with law enforcement duties at a concert in Elmore County later this month.

Working on their own time, OCSO lawmen will provide extra security at the Mountain Home County Music Festival. It begins Friday, July 29 and runs through Sunday, July 31.

During its July 5 meeting, the Board of Owyhee County Commissioners (BOCC) approved a law enforcement assistance agreement with Elmore County related to the concert.

The OCSO personnel signed up to help Elmore County are Tony Aguirre, Atanacio Montes, Moises Montes, Vern Tunnell, Rocky Widner and Greg Bishop. Atanacio Montes is a full-time patrol deputy, while Moises Montes works in the county jail. Bishop is an off-highway-vehicle deputy, while Tunnell, Widner and Aguirre are Level 1 reservists.

Elmore County will pay each deputy $36.03 per hour. The money will come into the Owyhee County treasury, and then be paid to the deputies.

Elmore County Sheriff Perry Grant stated that, for the most part, things went smoothly for his deputies last year.

“The only issue we ran into was environmental,” Grant said. “It was very dusty and windy last year. But, I did understand grass was planted last year to help with it this year.”

He also pointed out the fact that this will be an extra duty for the officers on their days off.

“Our deputies work very hard with little pay to show for it,” Grant said. “I am always looking for extra-paying duties to reward them for their hard work and to show my appreciation.”

The Elmore County Sheriff’s Office will also be working with the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to ensure that everything runs smoothly during the festival.

The event will be held on Forest road 61, off of Sun Valley Highway (U.S. Highway 20), 31 miles northeast of Mountain Home.

Organizers expect up to 20,000 people from across Idaho, and neighboring states, to attend the festival, which will be held on a 600-acre parcel.

More than 20 country music artists are scheduled to perform at the festival, including headliners Brantley Gilbert, Kenny Chesney and Jason Aldean.

√ Johnstone: Speed limit near middle school now 35 mph 24 hours a day

“A decision could be made this week to change the speed limit signs at the intersection of School Street and Hollar Road,” Owyhee County Commissioner Rocky Widner said last Wednesday.

On Tuesday, Sheriff Perry Grant said that the Commissioners approved a speed limit change from 40 mph to 35 mph during school hours.

“The signs taken down Friday were posted under the speed limit markers just south of Idaho Highway 19 and slightly north of Egurrola Lane,” Grant said. “OCSO management to ensure that everything lies outside the city limits.

The speed limit elsewhere on Johnstone Road near Hollar Road has its roots in a Homedale City Council meeting last month. Council members asked Owyhee County Sheriff Perry Grant to talk with highway commission- ers about making the Johnstone Road speed limit near the middle school 35 mph 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The district’s cooperation is necessary because part of the affected stretch of road lies outside the city limits.

The speed limit change on Johnstone Road near Hollar Road is 35 mph, and it returned to 50 mph during off-hours in front of HMS before last week’s action.

Smith discussed the change with IHBB commissioners prior to last Wednesday’s city council meeting.

Making the change only re- quired taking down small signs indicating that the speed limit was 35 mph during school hours.

√ La Raza: Trio is first with Homedale tied to attend national conference

community for their support,” Correa said. Correa traveled the state as FHLA hosted several conferences at high schools and colleges this year. She spent four years with Homedale’s FHLA chapter, serving as chapter secretary as last year in her second year with FHLA, said.

“I want to hear their stories about the way they do and what their mission is. What I hope to take from this conference is more knowledge on what affects our Hispanic community and how I can make more of a difference.”

There will be workshops on issues critical to the Latino community and presentations featuring nationally and internationally prominent speakers.

“I’m looking forward to meeting and interacting with other Latinos who seek to see a difference in the issues we face in the Hispanic community,” Santiago, who was chapter secretary last year in her second year with FHLA, said.

“I hope to gain as much information as I can from each workshop I attend.”

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Buenavista spent four years with the Homedale FHLA chapter, and served as chapter secretary as a sophomore.

Althou gh the 2016-17 Homedale chapter officers won’t be elected until the school year begins, Correa said that incoming junior Julia Santiago will serve as state events coordinator.

The FHILA organization was founded in 1997 with several goals in mind:

• Help reduce the dropout rate in Idaho schools and promote higher education.

• Stimulate Hispanics in becoming more involved in school and community activities.

• Motivate Hispanic students to reach their maximum potential and enhance development of school and community leaders.

• Promote unity within schools and communities and promote Hispanic culture.

• Promote awareness of the consequences of alcohol and substance abuse.